

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 IO-14 AID-20 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01

/131 W

----- 092265

R 161241Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6014

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ISRAELI LAND SEIZURES AND SETTLEMENT PLANS
ON WEST BANK

REF: AMMAN 4695 (NOTAL); AMMAN 4736; TEL AVIV 4664

1. SUMMARY. LOCAL ARABIC PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED ALLEGED LAND SEIZURES EAST OF NABLUS AND AT SAMOU SOUTH OF HEBRON. THESE DO NOT APPEAR RELATED, HOWEVER, TO SPECIFIC EFFORT TO ESTABLISH NEW SETTLEMENT AT SEBASTIA OR ELSEWHERE. ISRAELI DAILY HAARETZ REPORTED AUG 15 SEBASTIA GROUP NOW PLANNING ATTEMPT TO SETTLE IN JERICHO. END SUMMARY.

2. RECENT TRIP OF CONGEN OFFICER TO SEBASTIA REVEALED NO RPT NO LAND SEIZURE OR GOI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES THERE AS DESCRIBED IN PRESS ACCOUNT REPORTED AMMAN 4695. HOWEVER, LOCAL ARABIC
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AL ANBA (ISRAELI SPONSORED) REPORTED GOI (ABANDONED PROPERTY

CUSTODIAN) SEIZURE OF 120 DUNUMS LOCATED EAST OF NABLUS. ACCORD-
ING TO LOCAL SOURCES AND AS INDICATED AMMAN 4736, SEIZURE WAS
PORTESTED TO MILGOV BY NABLUS MAYOR MAZOUZ AL-MASRI. OWNERS ALSO
SAID TO HAVE PROTESTED TO GOI AND TO JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (JNF),
WHOSE BULLDOZERS ALLEGEDLY WORKING ON LAND. CONGEN BELIEVES THIS
SEIZURE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO SEBASTIA SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT,
ALTHOUGH JNF MAY HAVE IN MIND LAND'S ULTIMATE USE AS PART OF
ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENT TO BE ESTABLISHED AT SOME FUTURE TIME.

3. LOCAL ARABIC PRESS (AL QUDS AND AL SHAAB) HAS ALSO REPORTED JNF
TAKEOVER OF 900 DUNAMS OF LAND THAT SAMOU VILLAGERS CLAIM TO OWN.
DISPUTE AROSE WHEN JNF BEGAN AFFORESTATION WORK IN AREA ABOUT 3
WEEKS AGO, BUT REPORTEDLY JNF HAD ALREADY FORBIDDEN VILLAGERS TO
USE LAND LAST YEAR. THIS WOULD INDICATE ANY CONFISCATION MAY
HAVE TAKEN PLACE SOME TIME AGO.

4. WE ARE SEEKING FURTHER INFO ON STATUS BOTH ALLEGED SEIZURES AND
WILL REPORT ANYTHING ADDITIONAL WE ABLE TO LEARN.

5. RE PARA 1 AMMAN 4736, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT REPORTS
OF PLANS FOR A SETTLEMENT AT SHILOH (ARAB VILLAGE OF TURMAS AIYA,
NEAR SINJEL, MIDWAY BETWEEN RAMALLAH AND NABLUS). JERUSALEM POST
REPORTED AUG 12 THAT IN MEETING WITH AIDE OF MINISTER-WITHOUT-
PORTFOLIO GALILI, GROUP OF PROSPECTIVE SETTLERS SOUGHT GOVT
AUTHORIZATION FOR SETTING UP INDUSTRIAL KIBBUTZ THERE AS FIRST IN
CHAIN OF SETTLEMENTS ALONG MOUNTAIN RIDGE FROM JERUSALEM TO AFULA.
IN APPARENTLY NONCOMMITAL HEARING, OFFICIAL INDICATED GOI WOULD
STUDY ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY FIRST, BEFORE CONSIDERING POLITICAL
AND SECURITY ASPECTS. THIS GROUP REPORTEDLY DOES NOT INTEND
MOVE WITHOUT GOI APPROVAL.

6. INDEPENDENT HEBREW DAILY HAARETZ (LITANI) REPORTED AUG 15 THAT
SEBASTIA SETTLERS NOW ARE PLANNING ATTEMPT TO SETTLE IN JERICHO,
PERHAPS IN DESERTED REFUGEE CAMP, AND HOPE TO BROADEN GOURP'S
REPRESENTATION WITH OTHER FROM OUTSIDE RELIGIOUS CAMP. LITANI TOLD
US HE THINKS EFFORT TO SET UP UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT IN JERICHO
LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE VERY SOON. HE REPORTED THAT SAME GOUP
ALSO CONTEMPLATING ANOTHER ATTEMPT IN SAMARIA WITH LARGER NUMBER
OF PEOPLE THAN RECENT SEBASTIA EFFORT.

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7. COMMENT. SEBASTIA SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT AND AFTERMATH HAVE LED
TO SPATE OF PRESS REPORTS OF ALLEGED PLANS OR HOPES OF VARIOUS
GROUPS TO ESTABLISH NEW SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK AND ELSEWHERE.
ARABIC PRESS NATURALLY PICKS THESE UP AND SOMETIMES GIVES LESS
SERIOUS OF THESE MORE SIGNIFICANCE THAT THEY WARRANT. GOUP
THAT MADE SEBASTIA EFFORT AND NOW TALKING OF JERICHO, HOWEVER,
APPEARS DETERMINED TO TRY AGAIN, REGARDLESS OF GOI POLICY.
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